

Patent claims

1. A method for automatically filing documents relating to business transactions, in which a computer system is used to store data relating to a business transaction for access using a business application and in which a business transaction is assigned an identification code, with one or more different classes of business transactions having different data structures being mapped in the computer system, characterized

5 -- in that a first step involves at least one input data record being produced from data relating to a business transaction, said input data record having a structure which is specific to one or the or each different class of business transactions and to one or more business applications,

10 -- in that a second step involves the at least one input data record being transformed into an output data record which is designed for access by at least two business applications, and

15 -- in that a third step involves the output data record being stored with its associated identification code, so that the output data record can be read in full or in part by the at least two business applications by referring to the identification code.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, where the first step is performed using a first program module, the second step is performed using a second program module, and where the input data record having the specific structure is transferred from the first program module via an interface to the second program module.

35 3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, where the or each business application is in the form of a third or further program module.

4. The method as claimed in claim 3, where the second program module is in a form such that the transformation process in the second step can be set via an interface using the or each third program
5 module.

5. The method as claimed in claim 3 or 4, where the second program module is in a form such that it can read data, which can be selected using the at least two
10 business applications, from the output data record upon a data request from the or each third program module and can transfer said data to the or each third and/or to a further program module via an interface for the purpose of further processing and/or for the purpose of
15 display.

6. The method as claimed in claim 5, where the selectable data can be selected by the third program module.
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7. The method as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 6, where the output data record is stored on a transactional basis.

25 8. The method as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 7, where the output data record has, for a plurality of business applications, a specific database structure having one or more tables.

30 9. The method as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 8, where the output data record has, for different journals in accounting, different data areas.

35 10. A computer system for carrying out the method as claimed in one or more of the preceding claims, having

- means for storing data relating to business transactions,
- means for storing programs,
- means for executing programs,

- program-code means for carrying out the method as claimed in one or more of the preceding claims.

5 11. A computer program having program-code means in order to carry out all of the steps in an arbitrary method as claimed in an arbitrary combination of claims 1 to 9 when the program is executed on a computer.

10 12. The computer program as claimed in claim 11, contained in an electrical carrier signal.

15 13. A computer program product having program-code means which are stored on a computer-readable data storage medium and are suitable for carrying out the method as claimed in an arbitrary combination of claims 1 to 9 when they are executed on a computer.

20 14. A computer having a volatile and/or non-volatile memory in which a computer program as claimed in claim 11 is stored.

25 15. An electronic data structure, which can be obtained using the method as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 9.